U. GETHSEMANE. MARK 14:32-42

Jesus, like any normal human being, is overcome with fear and anxiety in the Garden of Gethsemane (14:32-42), because he knows what is going to happen to him. Nevertheless, as "the Son of Man", he accepts that his suffering is a necessary part of God's plan.

Once again we have Peter, James and John in a privileged group. They were there at the Raising of Jairus's Daughter and the Transfiguration, and they are here now in the Garden of Gethsemane. But the account does raise problems: if Jesus was entirely alone, in a very intimate encounter between himself and God, and the disciples were drowsy or asleep, how did anybody know what took place? As in the case of the Transfiguration, the dividing line between historical event and symbolic tableau is blurred. And once again (as in the case of "I tell you, there are some here who will not die until they have seen the Kingdom of God come with power") authentic sayings delivered possibly at another time and another context may have been incorporated into the incident: "Keep watch, and pray that you will not fall into temptation" (a theme taken up in further teaching recorded in *Matthew*) and "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

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